

The New Light of Myanmar

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President U Thein Sein, Australian Trade Commission hold talks over investment sector

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Mr Bruce Gosper, CEO of Australian Trade Commission, held talks over investment in Myanmar at the Intercontinental Hotel in Australia yesterday.

During the meeting, Mr Bruce Gosper, on behalf of Australian businessmen, expressed

his interests in natural resources, infrastructures, agro-based businesses, foodstuff, education and health sectors in Myanmar.

He also offered assistance of Australian for amending the trade rules and regulations of Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein clarified the efforts of the government for political stability to

attract the investment, rules and regulations for investment and prospects of investment in the economic sector in Myanmar.

After the meeting, the Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by Asia Link and President U Thein Sein clarified the economic reforms in the country in his key-note address over the dinner.

Asia Link, founded by Myer Foundation in 1990, is a non-profit organization and has been helping decision makers from political, economic

and education sectors of Asia and Australia to cooperate with each other.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with CEO of Australian Trade Commission Mr Bruce Gosper at Intercontinental Hotel.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivers an address at dinner hosted by Asia Link.

MNA



Myanmar-Thai border areas economic development discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March— The Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducted a meeting on economic development programmes for Myanmar-Thai border areas at the meeting hall of the Thai embassy on Pyay Road, Yangon, yesterday morning.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Thai Ambassador

to Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Subanajata, Directors-General U Soe Ko Ko, Daw Le Le Thein and Daw Than Than Lin, Deputy Director-General Daw Cho Cho Win, and 33 representatives from administration, public works, rural development, international relations departments led by Permanent Secretary of Interior Ministry of Thailand Mr. Wiboon Sanguanpong,

and 13 representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Thailand.

The deputy minister welcomed the win-win cooperation in economic development programmes of Myanmar-Thai border areas.

Myanmar's national comprehensive development project, rapid increase in Myanmar-Thai border trade volume and tasks of Myanmar Investment

Commission were discussed.

Next, the permanent secretary for interior of Thailand focused on potentials for making investments in agricultural and trade sectors for economic development of Myanmar-Thai border areas.

The deputy minister and officials answered the queries raised by the Thai delegation.

MNA

Weather Forecast for third 10 days of March 2013 issued on 18-3-2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

A low pressure area may form in the South Bay of Bengal. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy Day

Rainy days are expected about (4) to (6) days in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, about (2) to (4) days in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Upper Sagaing Regions, Chin, Shan, Mon and Rakhine States, weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Day Temperature

Day temperature will be about March average temperature in Kachin, Shan, Kayin, Mon and Kayah States and above March average temperature in the remaining Regions and States.

Fog Condition

Foggy days are expected in the morning about (4) to (6) days in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi, Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States and (3) days in the remaining Regions and States.

NLM

Slight earthquake jolts inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March— A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, (about 5 miles east of Thabaikkyin), about 62 miles north of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 11 hrs 38 min 12 sec M.S.T today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Census-taking course (lower Myanmar) organized



YANGON, 20 March — As a preparation for pilot census-taking task before nationwide census-taking in 2014, the Ministry of Immigration and Population organized a census-taking course (lower Myanmar) at the training school of the ministry in 37th street, here, on 18 March.

Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint delivered an address at the opening ceremony.

In his address, he elaborated pilot census-taking task to be conducted in 20 townships in March

2013 and importance of the role of teachers who will discharge census-taking task. He called on trainees to perform census-taking task as a national duty. A total 60 of trainees from the Ministry of Education are taking the course.

Kyemon

Woman standing on the middle line knocked down, killed on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road

YANGON, 20 March — A woman was knocked down by a taxi on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road near Lann Ni bus-stop at about 8.30 pm on 17 March.

She was hit by a taxi driving at breakneck speed while she was standing in the middle of the road together with her husband

before crossing over the second half of the road. She was pronounced dead on the spot at the scene of the incident. “The fatal accident happened to her while standing and waiting to cross the opposite lane. I have no idea whether the headlights of the car were poor or not. The woman was

knocked down. The incident was due to excessive speed. The driver was caught at the scene,” says a nearby witness. It is learnt that the taxi driver was arrested at the scene by officials concerned and the dead body of the woman was taken to Yangon General Hospital.

Kyemon

Man with mental illness run over by train in Insein Township

YANGON, 20 March — A man with mental illness was hit by a train while he was crossing over the railroad

New transformer satisfies ward dwellers in Hsipaw Township

HSHIPAW, 20 March — Under the supervision of Hsipaw Township Electrical Engineer U Kyaw Htay Aung, electricians performed installation of new 11/0.4 KVA transformer at Padaintaung ward of the

at a place between Aung San station and Danyingon station in Insein Township, here, at about 5.30 am on

township on 14 March.

Warddweller expressed their complete satisfaction with installation of new transformer as they are being provided with adequate supply of electricity.

Kyemon



11 March.

U Tun Yi, 44, of Aung San ward in Insein Township was run over by the train and he died of severe injuries on the spot. The dead body was taken to Insein Hospital and Insein police station is investigating the death of the man struck by the train whether there are foul plays or other suspicions.

Kyemon

Dead whale washed ashore on Hmyawit beach in Launglon Township

DAWEI, 20 March — A dead whale was washed ashore on Hmyawit beach (Kampani) in Launglon Township of Dawei District on 16 March. According to a local fisherman, the dead whale, nearly 42 feet long, is believed to have died one month ago because some of its flesh had rotted away.

“Watching the Weather to Protect Life and Property”
World Meteorology Day
23rd March

Refresher course for trainers of CICSS

YANGON, 20 March — Under the supervision of Union Civil Services Board, a refresher course for trainers was opened at Kaytumadi Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service

(Phaunggyi) on 18 March with the sponsorship of UNDP and International Management Group-IMG. On behalf of the chairman of UCSB, member U Khin Maung

Aye extended greetings. A total of 50 trainers from two CICSSs are taking the three-week course conducted by foreign scholars.

MNA

Woman found dead hanging herself from tree in Labutta Township

LABUTTA, 20 March — According to information that a woman had committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree in her residence in Layinkwin village of

Labutta Township at about 11 am on 13 March, Police Sub-inspector Than Tun and party of Pyinsalu Police Station rushed to the scene. Daw Myint Htay, 45,

was found dead hanging herself from a branch of Padauk tree in her residence. Her death was ruled an apparent suicide.

Kyemon



Photo shows Hledan flyover and Hledan Centre which are nearing completion at Hledan junction where a large volume of traffic creates gridlock frequently in Kamayut Township on 18 March.— KYEMON

Seminar on management of climate change and forest conservation

YANGON, 20 March — A seminar for local people to be competent in dealing with the impacts of climate change and forest management took place at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel on 15 March.

First, Managing Director U Win Myo Thu of Green Homeland Development

Association extended greetings. Next, Dr Maung Maung Than gave talks on establishment of community forest plantation, Dr. Timmi Tillman on from nature to food sufficiency, U Win

Maw on conservation of community forest plantation and biodiversity, Dr Oliver on legal timber extraction through sustainable forest management, Dr Rosy Ne Win on reduction in carbon emission through

establishment of community forest plantation and U Tun Paw Oo on road map for carbon emission reduction. Then they answered the queries raised by those present.

Next, an official of UNDP explained matters related to small funds for environmental conservation. The seminar came to an end with concluding remarks by U Win Myo Thu.

Kyemon

Child burnt to death in house fire in Einme Township

EINME, 20 March — A child was killed in the fire in Paybinsu village of Einme Township in Ayeyawady Region at about 8 pm on 4 March. When a thatched house of Ko Soe Than and

Ma Sein Than Kyi in the village caught fire, a family of four members fell asleep. Their daughter was burnt to death in the fire which started from the kitchen.

Kyemon

WORLD

Obama heads to Israel amid low expectations

JERUSALEM, 20 March—President Barack Obama arrives in Israel on Wednesday without any new peace initiative to offer disillusioned Palestinians and facing deep Israeli doubts over his pledge to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

Making his first official visit here as president, Obama hopes to reset his often fraught relations with both the Israelis and Palestinians in a carefully choreographed three-day stay that is high on symbolism but low on expectations.

He will meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, hold separate talks in the occupied West

Bank with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and address a skeptical Israeli public with a speech to students.

US officials say he will try to coax the Palestinians and Israelis back to peace talks. He will also seek to reassure Netanyahu he is committed to preventing Iran from getting a nuclear bomb and discuss ways of containing Syria's civil war.

However, the White House has deliberately minimized hopes of any major breakthroughs, a reversal from Obama's first four years in office when aides said he would only



US President Barack Obama waves as he steps aboard Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, on 19 March, 2013. Obama is travelling to Israel, Ramallah and Jordan on the first overseas trip of his second term.—REUTERS

visit the Jewish state if he had something concrete to accomplish.

Workers have hung hundreds of US and Israel flags on lampposts across Jerusalem, as well as

banners that boast of “an unbreakable alliance,” but the apparent lack of any substantial policy push has bemused many diplomats and analysts.

Reuters

19 rescued from Polish mine after quake-triggered cave-in

WARSAW, 20 March—Some 19 miners were rescued from a Polish copper mine after being trapped underground by a cave-in, a spokesman of the mine operator said on Wednesday.

The miners were trapped 600 metres below ground at the Rudna mine, about 400 km southwest of the Polish capital, when an earthquake triggered a collapse in the mine late Tuesday night, KGHM spokesman Dariusz Wyborski said.

There had been no contact with them for two hours as the tremor cut communication lines, the spokesman said.

The rescuers reached the miners after tunneling through huge rocks, he added.

The mine, which has been in operation since 1974, is in the Silesia region, near Poland's borders with Germany and the Czech Republic.

Xinhua

Chemical rocket hits Aleppo, mortars shower Damascus as Syrian opposition names PM for interim gov't

DAMASCUS, 20 March—A chemical rocket slammed a town in Syria's northern Province of Aleppo on Tuesday, killing at least 25 people, with around seven mortar shells landing at an upscale district of the capital Damascus at a time the exiled opposition elected a prime minister for a provisional government.

At least 25 people were killed and 130 others wounded on Tuesday when armed men fired a rocket stuffed with chemical materials at the Khan al-Asal town in Aleppo, the state-media said, accusing the armed opposition fighters of being behind it. However, the rebels denied the accusations and turned the accusation finger against the government.

Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi slammed the attack as “dangerous escalation,” adding that such a move mirrors the shift in using the arms that are being sent through neighbouring countries to the opposition fighters.

“In today's crime, the terrorists have used an internationally-prohibited weapon,” Zoubi said,

reiterating that the attack is the first achievement of the would-be interim government by the opposition.

Meanwhile, Syria's state TV aired footage of the aftermath of a chemical weapon attack. The TV camera panned between different rooms of a hospital where tens of wounded people laid on beds with oxygen masks covering their faces, while doctors and nurses dressed in medical scrubs were examining the injured. A patient appeared unconscious with white liquid trickling out of his mouth and nose. The footage also showed a kid seemingly traumatized from the incident. For his side, Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities regarding the attack.

“This is another crime to be added to the record of the terrorist groups backed by some Arab countries in the Gulf and Western countries, particularly Turkey, which we held responsible for the crimes against our civilians,” Mikdad said.

According to Mikdad,

Syria will send a letter to the UN Security Council, calling for shouldering its responsibilities to put an end to the terrorist crimes.

The incident has been met with condemnation from Russia and Iran, Syria's main allies, while the United States said there is no proof that the rebels were behind the attack. The unprecedented move came also as Britain and France were pushing the European Union (EU) to lift an arms embargo on rebels in the hope of tilting the fight in favour of the opposition.

Reuters

Al-Qaeda in Africa says it beheads French hostage

NOUAKCHOTT, 20 March—Al-Qaeda's wing in north Africa said it had beheaded a French hostage in retaliation for France's intervention in Mali, Mauritania's ANI news agency reported on Tuesday, citing a spokesman for the group.

In what ANI reported was a telephone call to the agency, which has close links to Islamist militants, the commander said Philippe Verdon had been beheaded on 10 March “in response to the French military intervention in the north of Mali”, ANI reported.

The death, if proved true, would be a worrying development for Paris, which still has some 14 hostages held in West Africa, including seven in the Sahel by AQIM and its affiliates.

French President Fra-

Italian President seeks way out of political stalemate

ROME, 20 March—Italian President Giorgio Napolitano starts consultations with political leaders on Wednesday to see if any of them has a chance of forming a government after last month's election left no party with a majority in parliament.

Italy's political stalemate and the prospect of months of political uncertainty has created alarm across Europe just as the standoff over bank deposits in Cyprus reawakened fears that the euro zone debt crisis could flare up again.

Centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani, who won a majority in the lower house but not in the Senate, commands the largest bloc in parliament but cannot govern unless he has support from one of the other parties.

However there has

been no sign that an accord is possible with either former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right alliance, the second biggest force in parliament, or the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement led by ex-comic Beppe Grillo which holds the balance of power.

If no agreement can be struck between parties that remain bitterly divided, Italy faces the prospect of a brief period under a caretaker government followed by a return to the polls, possibly as early as June.

Napolitano meets minor parties, including Prime Minister Mario Monti's centrist bloc on Wednesday before seeing representatives from the 5-Star Movement, Berlusconi's People of Freedom (PDL) party and Bersani's Democratic Party (PD) on Thursday.

Reuters



Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano gestures during a news conference following talks with German counterpart Joachim Gauck in Berlin on 28 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS



Heavy smoke rises at the scene of a fire in a plastic factory in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 19 March, 2013. About 500 firefighters tried to extinguish the fire of two plastic wineries in Guayaquil's industrial area. No casualties have been reported.

XINHUA

ncois Hollande in part justified military action in Mali to prevent the north from being used as a launch pad for terror attacks in Africa and in the West.

Verdon, a French geologist, was captured in the northern Mali town of Hombori in November 2011. A French foreign ministry spokesman said he had no information on the report.

One of AQIM's leaders, Mokhtar Belmokhtar, had pledged revenge after France launched a campaign in January to dislodge the group and other Islamist militants who had hijacked a Tuareg rebellion in the Sahel nation and seized the northern half of the country.

After driving them from the main cities of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal in a swift, nine-week assault, some 1,600 French and

Chadian troops began searching for Islamist rebels in their pocket hideouts in the mountainous region of northern Mali.

The AQIM spokesman, who identified himself only as Qayrawani, described Verdon as a French spy, adding that Hollande “bore the responsibility for the remaining hostages”.

ANI's Director Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Abo-ulmaaly told Reuters he knew Qayrawani, an AQIM commander who according to him, is of Tuareg origin, had called him from Mali.

When asked by the agency whether Belmokhtar had been killed, he neither denied nor confirmed it. There have been conflicting reports on whether Belmokhtar was killed in the French military campaign against the rebels.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Second computer glitch shuts down NASA Mars rover



NASA's Mars rover Curiosity is pictured in this 3 Feb 2013 handout self-portrait obtained by Reuters on 9 Feb 2013. —REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla), 20 March — The Mars rover *Curiosity* has had a second computer glitch, extending an unplanned work break for the NASA robot that discovered the first life-friendly chemistry beyond Earth, scientists said on Monday.

Engineers had hoped to resume *Curiosity* science operations on Monday following a problem with the rover's main computer two weeks ago.

But a second computer problem surfaced on Sunday night as the rover was attempting to radio data files back to Earth, said lead scientist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology.

"This is not something that is rare or even uncommon," Grotzinger said at a webcast news conference during the Lunar and Plane-

tary Science Conference in Houston.

The problem, however, is expected to keep *Curiosity*'s next batch of science results on hold for a few more days, Grotzinger told Reuters.

Before the glitch, the rover had radioed back to Earth its first analysis of rock samples drilled from the inside of slab of bedrock in the rover's Gale Crater landing site.

The rover touched down on 6 August to learn if the planet most like Earth has or ever had the chemical ingredients to support microbial life. The early results, announced last week, were a definitive yes. Scientists also announced additional evidence on Monday that *Curiosity* is located in an area once flush with water, a key ingredient for life.—Reuters

Telecoms prevail in arguing against cybersecurity recommendations

WASHINGTON, 20 March — Large telecommunications companies and Internet providers succeeded in convincing an advisory panel that the US government should not pursue enforcement of security measures meant to bolster their defences against the growing threat of cyber attacks, according to a report released late on Monday.

Representatives of the communications industry on a panel advising the Federal Communications Commission argued against a recommendation that the FCC press the telecoms sector to abide by a list of cybersecurity standards endorsed by national security and defence experts. The panel could not reach an agreement needed to make such a recommendation.

Government officials

and the business community have struggled to reach a consensus on the scope and power of cybersecurity standards as industry experts say prescriptive measures would hamper innovation and expose companies to being sued if their networks get hacked.

The panel that wrote the advisory report to the FCC includes experts from several state authorities, non-profits and Internet and telecom firms such as AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, Comcast and Microsoft.

In the report, the advis-

ers said there was no consensus within the group on the "extent to which the FCC should encourage the communications industry" to follow so-called "20 Controls" endorsed by national security and defence leaders as strengthening protections against cyber attacks.

"The user community within Working Group 11 would prefer for the FCC to encourage industry to use the 20 Controls," the advisers wrote in recommendation to the FCC.

Reuters



Workers put up a banner advertisement for AT&T on the side of a hotel as they prepare for International CES show in Las Vegas, Nevada on 4 Jan 2013.—REUTERS

Large asteroid heading to Earth? Pray, says

CAPE CANAVERAL, 20 March—NASA chief Charles Bolden has advice on how to handle a large asteroid headed toward New York City: Pray.

That's about all the United States—or anyone for that matter—could do at this point about unknown asteroids and meteors that may be on a collision course with Earth, Bolden told lawmakers at a US House of Representatives Science Committee hearing on Tuesday.

An asteroid estimated to be about 55 feet in diameter exploded on 15 February over Chelyabinsk, Russia, generating shock waves that shattered windows and damaged buildings. More than 1,500 people were injured.

Later that day, a larger, unrelated asteroid discovered last year passed about 17,200 miles from Earth,

closer than the network of television and weather satellites that ring the planet.

The events "serve as evidence that we live in an active solar system with potentially hazardous objects passing through our neighbourhood with surprising frequency," said Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson, a Texas Democrat.

"We were fortunate that the events of last month were simply an interesting coincidence rather than a catastrophe," said Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican, who called the hearing to learn what is being done and how much money is needed to better protect the planet.

NASA has found and is tracking about 95 percent of the largest objects flying near Earth, those that are .62 miles or larger in diameter. "An asteroid of that size, a kilometre or bigger,

could plausibly end civilization," White House science advisor John Holdren told legislators at the same hearing.

But only about 10 percent of an estimated 10,000 potential "city-killer" asteroids, those with a diameter of about 165 feet have been found, Holdren added.

On average, objects of that size are estimated to hit Earth about once every 1,000 years. "From the in-

formation we have, we don't know of an asteroid that will threaten the population of the United States," Bolden said. "But if it's coming in three weeks, pray."

In addition to stepping up its monitoring efforts and building international partnerships, NASA is looking at developing technologies to divert an object that may be on a collision course with Earth.—Reuters



The passage of asteroid 2012 DA14 through the Earth-moon system, is depicted in this handout image from NASA.—REUTERS

Adobe chief technology officer to join Apple



Customers enter the Apple flagship retail store to purchase the new iPad in San Francisco, California on 16 March 2012.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 March—Apple Inc has snagged Adobe System's chief technology officer, Kevin Lynch, who oversees the software maker's technology research and experience design teams with a focus on cloud and social computing.

Lynch, who joined Adobe in 2005 through its acquisition of Macromedia, will be Apple's

vice president of technology. He will report to Bob Mansfield, Apple's senior vice president of technology, who leads the California gadget giant's wireless and semiconductor team, Apple said on Tuesday.

Adobe said earlier that Lynch will leave the company effective on 22 March and that it would not be filling the CTO position.—Reuters

Samsung Galaxy S4: HTC says the next big thing is not plastic



NEW DELHI, 20 March —It looks like smartphone wars have taken another dimension after the launch of the Samsung Galaxy S4. After Apple's marketing chief dissing the Korean giant's new offering before its launch and a defensive campaign from the company after the launch, HTC has also entered the fray, with the company's chief marketing officer, Benjamin Ho, taking a dig at the Galaxy S4. In an interaction with CNET Asia, Ho said,

"The next big thing? It's not plastic."

He said that with a continuation of a plastic body, and a larger screen being the most obvious physical change, Samsung's new Galaxy pales in comparison to the all-aluminum unibody HTC One, and that it was just more of the same. HTC president, Jason MacKenzie criticised the launch event. "I went from laughing to actually feeling embarrassed at some of the acting," he said.

Meanwhile, Samsung's design chief Dennis Miloskeski, defended Samsung's smartphone strategy including Galaxy S4s design at the Engadget Expand conference, and said that the company is focusing on making devices smarter, and that design will improve over time.

"Actually, the global design process has been raised," Miloskeski said. "We're making devices thinner and lighter, screens more beautiful. With Samsung, it's less about that but more about building a meaningful relationship with technology. As these devices become smarter, letting them sense where you are and adjusting to that, it's known that design will improve over time. But now, we're thinking about: how do you create a soul for a device?"

PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Government changes course on graphic cigarette warnings

WASHINGTON, 20 March —The government has dropped its push for cigarette labels to carry images of diseased lungs and other graphic health warnings, and will craft new anti-smoking ads that do not run afoul of free speech rights.

In a letter to Republican House Speaker John Boehner last Friday, Attorney General Eric Holder said that the Food and Drug Administration would go back to the drawing board to develop the ads, as required by legislation passed by Congress in 2009.

Half the space on the front and back of each cigarette pack must be taken up by anti-smoking warnings and a large share of other printed

ads should have similar discouraging messages, according to the legislation. Cigarette manufacturers, however, sued to prevent the ads from appearing on the packaging for their products, saying such a move would curtail free speech rights. In August, a federal court struck down the requirement as unconstitutional.

The Justice Department was facing a deadline on whether to ask the Supreme Court to review that ruling.

“The Department of Justice in this case has vigorously defended the constitutionality of the graphic warnings,” Holder wrote in the letter notifying Boehner, who is a smoker. Holder said the deadline for an appeal prompted the new approach.



New graphic cigarette packaging, released by the US Food and Drug Administration on 21 June, 2011, shows a varied collection of dead bodies, diseased lungs and a man on a ventilator were among the graphic images for revamped US tobacco labels, unveiled by health officials who hope the warnings will help smokers quit.—REUTERS

Many other nations have for years used graphic images to try to deter smokers.

The FDA has argued that the images of rotting teeth and diseased lungs are accurate and necessary to warn consumers —

especially teenagers — about the risks of smoking.

On Tuesday, the FDA used a blog posting to say the agency “will undertake research to support a new rulemaking consistent with the (2009) Tobacco Control Act.”—Reuters

British icon Bentley may build next car abroad



Wolfgang Schreiber, Chairman and Chief Executive of Bentley, poses for a photograph after a news conference in central London on 19 March, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 20 March— Bentley said on Tuesday it may assemble a planned sport-utility vehicle outside the UK, the first time the British luxury automobile icon would build a complete

car on foreign soil.

Rapid sales growth has kept Bentley’s factory in northwest England busy, but shifting production of a new model abroad would be an unwelcome development

for Britain’s government as it tries to revive a flagging industrial sector.

Luxury manufacturer Jaguar Land Rover TAMOJL.UL is already investigating moving its car manufacturing to India to build on growth in emerging markets with the help of Indian parent Tata Motors (TAMO.NS).

Bentley, bought by Germany’s Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) in 1998, has been making its ultra-luxury vehicles including the flagship Mulsanne limousine at the Crewe factory since 1946.

A prestigious heritage and exclusive image has

kept the brand alive — James Bond drove Bentleys in the novels by Ian Fleming —and guaranteed its appeal to rich foreigners.

But Bentley executives shrugged off a suggestion that shifting production outside the UK would harm the ‘Britishness’ that is central to Bentley’s appeal. Overseas buyers accounted for 87 percent of Bentley’s turnover in 2012, when sales grew 22 percent.

Reuters

UNSG’s message on the International Day of Forests and the Tree

21 March 2013

Forests are vital for our well-being. They cover nearly a third of the globe and provide an invaluable variety of social, economic and environmental benefits. Three-fourths of freshwater comes from forested catchment areas. Forests stabilize slopes and prevent landslides; they protect coastal communities against tsunamis and storms. More than 3 billion people use wood for fuel; some 2 billion people depend on forests for sustenance and income, and 750 million live within them.

By proclaiming the International Day of Forests and the Tree, the United Nations has created a new platform to raise awareness about the importance of all types of forest ecosystems to sustainable development.

Forests are often at the frontlines of competing demands. Urbanization and the consumption needs of growing populations are linked to deforestation for large-scale agriculture and the extraction of valuable timber, oil and minerals. Often the roads that provide infrastructure for these enterprises ease access for other forest users who can further exacerbate the rate of forest and biodiversity loss.

Forests are also central to combating climate change. They store more carbon than is in the atmosphere. Deforestation and land-use changes account for 17 per cent of human-generated carbon dioxide emissions. As weather patterns alter due to climate change, many forested areas are increasingly vulnerable. This underlines the urgency of a global, inclusive, legally binding climate change agreement that will address greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the protection and sustainable management of forests.

Notwithstanding these immense challenges, there are encouraging signs. The global rate of deforestation has decreased by almost 20 per cent in the past decade. We need now to intensify efforts to protect forests, including by incorporating them into the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

On this first International Day of Forests and the Tree, I urge governments, businesses and all sectors of society to commit to reducing deforestation, preventing forest degradation, reducing poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods for all forest-dependent peoples.

UNIC/ Yangon

Filters often used to stop clots without evidence

NEW YORK, 20 March— Some hospitals insert filters into the blood vessels of more than one-third of their patients with clots that may travel to the lungs, despite a lack of evidence they save lives, according to a new study.

The filters, made of metal wires, are recommended based on theories about how they work for patients with a so-called venous thromboembolism who can’t take anti-clotting drugs. But they are sometimes used on other people with blood clots, as well. And the filters may increase the risk of second clots in the legs and other complications — such as when pieces of the filter break off and migrate to the lungs or heart, researchers said. “The logic is that if we put a little basket, some sort of net, in the inferior vena

cava and catch these clots before they get to the lungs, we may be able to save lives,” said Dr Vinay Prasad, from the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

But, he added, “There is no good evidence that it actually does do that.” Researchers led by Dr Richard White from the University of California, Davis School of Medicine in Sacramento analyzed discharge records from 263 California hospitals to track use of vena cava filters in 2006 through 2010.

During that time, more than 130,000 people were hospitalized for blood clots. Surgeons across the state inserted a filter into the blood vessels of one in seven patients with clots, but the frequency of filter use varied widely by

hospital—from 0 to almost 40 percent of patients. People having a major operation or with serious bleeding were more likely to get a vena cava filter, but hospital factors seemed to affect their use as well.

For example, the largest hospitals used filters five times more than the smallest ones, and urban facilities inserted them more than twice as often as rural ones.

“Everyone in this field of dealing with blood clots has always been concerned about whether these filters do any good or not,” White told Reuters Health.

“Everyone’s been wondering, why are these things being used so much? You look nationally, and it just keeps going up and up.”

Reuters

EU lawmakers to close deal on banker bonus clampdown

BRUSSELS, 20 March— European Union lawmakers are expected to agree on Wednesday to bar bankers in Europe from getting bonuses bigger than their salary, introducing the first cap of its kind globally.

One of the most ambitious reforms of the financial crisis, the cap is designed to address public anger at a bonus-driven culture many European politicians believe encouraged the risk-taking that pulled down banks and governments.

It is set to be introduced from next year despite the objections of Britain. While some token concessions are

possible to show goodwill towards the bloc’s financial hub of London, the decision on a cap will not be reversed.

EU officials indicated that there could be a further delay to the introduction of the new rules until the middle of 2014 to allow countries time to complete

legal preparations—a delay that could spare bankers for one more bonus season.

Lawmakers from the European Parliament and diplomats representing EU countries are to begin talks on finalising the bonus rules at 1730 GMT. Officials expect a deal to be clinched.

Reuters



The European flag flies outside of the La Canada shopping centre in Marbella, southern Spain on 23 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

WORLD

Afghanistan says strengthening national sovereignty central to transition

UNITED NATIONS, 20 March—An Afghan diplomat said here on Tuesday that his country believes strengthening national sovereignty is central to transition in the war-torn country.

The statement came as Zahir Tanin, the Afghan permanent representative to the United Nations, was taking the floor at an open debate of the UN Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan.

“After more than a decade of shared efforts, strengthening of sovereignty entails normali-

zation through security, political and economic transition,” Tanin said. “For the Afghan people, national sovereignty means taking full responsibility for their destiny.”

In early December, the Afghan forces took over the full security charges of six eastern provinces from the NATO-led forces. The transition of security control from foreign troops to Afghan forces, which began in summer 2011, is due to be completed by the end of 2014.

“With the announce-

ment of the 4th tranche of transition this past December, assumption of full security responsibility by the Afghan forces is more tangible than ever,” he said. “By the end of this stage, 87 percent of the Afghan population will be living in areas where Afghan security forces are in charge of security.”

“The Afghan people are keenly focused on a successful political transition, and all eyes are on the election next spring,” he said.

Xinhua



Israeli President Shimon Peres (C, seated) and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L, seated) pose for a group photo together with the ministers of the new Israeli government, in Jerusalem, on 18 March, 2013. Israel's 33rd government was inaugurated at the Knesset (parliament) on Monday evening after its members were earlier introduced by the prime minister to lawmakers.—XINHUA

Uruguay eager to boost Mercosur-SICA economic ties

MANAGUA, 20 March—Uruguay is keen to promote business ties between two economic blocs in Latin America, visiting Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Almagro said on Tuesday.

At a joint Press conference with Jose Adan Aguerrri, President of Nicaragua's Supreme Council for Private Enterprise (Cosep), Almagro said Uruguay strongly believes in Latin American integra-

tion, especially for business cooperation.

Aguerrri said Nicaragua's private sector is willing to promote trade ties between the two economic blocs, the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

Aguerrri also said he hopes that by mid-2013, SICA and Mercosur member countries will be able to have direct contact to

strengthen their commercial ties.

Uruguay is interested in seeking new markets for its pharmaceutical and agriculture products, said Almagro, who has also visited Guatemala and El Salvador during his ongoing foreign tour.

Uruguay is also interested in purchasing such Nicaraguan products as coffee, rum and tobacco, among others.

Xinhua

Saudi Arabia arrests 18 members in spying cell

RIYADH, 20 March—Saudi Arabia announced on Tuesday the arrest of 18 people over the suspicion of spying for another country, *Saudi Press Agency* reported.

Saudi authorities arrested 16 Saudis, an Iranian and a Lebanese in four areas: Mecca, Medina, Riyadh and Eastern Province, a spokesperson of Saudi Interior Minister said in a statement. The spokes-

person said the suspects were charged of collecting information about vital establishments in Saudi Arabia for the intelligence of another country, stopping short of revealing the country's name.

The local *Okaz* newspaper referred to the group as a terror cell, the members of which had been planning explosions in vital locations.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 20 March, 2013 shows the snow-covered cherry blossoms at the Yuyuantan Park in Beijing, capital of China. Beijing witnessed a snowfall with a depth reaching 10-17 centimeters overnight.—XINHUA



Employees work at the construction site of a new lock for the Panama Canal's widening project in Colon on 19 March, 2013. The new lock is expected to be completed and operated in April 2015, the project's Director General Bernardo Gonzalez said.—XINHUA

UN mission in DRC hails surrender of wanted Congolese rebel leader

UNITED NATIONS, 20 March—The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on Tuesday welcomed the surrender of rebel leader Bosco Ntaganda, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Ntaganda walked into the United States Embassy in Rwanda on Monday and turned himself in and asked to be transferred to the ICC in The Hague, the Netherlands, reports said.

“The UN Stabiliza-

tion Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has welcomed the surrender of the Congolese rebel leader Jean Bosco Ntaganda and the decision by the United States to transfer him to The Hague where he is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Ituri between 2001 and 2003,” UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters here. “The special representative of the (UN) secretary-general in the Democratic Republic of

the Congo, Roger Meece, said that the surrender of Mr Ntaganda and his early transfer to the International Criminal Court will help advance the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,” Nesirky said. Meece also noted that the move would send a strong signal to human rights offenders anywhere that they are not beyond justice. The ICC is the first permanent international court set up to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

Xinhua

Greece safeguarded against Cyprus crisis

ATHENS, 20 March—Greece is fully safeguarded against the Cyprus crisis, Greek coalition government partners assured on Tuesday evening, criticizing Eurogroup's decision to impose a levy on deposits at the Cypriot banking system in exchange for bailout aid as a “historic mistake.”

Alarmed by developments in Nicosia and the potential impact on Greece's efforts to overcome its debt crisis, Greek

Prime Minister Antonis Samaras held a meeting with the leaders of the parties supporting the government over the Cyprus crisis and the progress in negotiations with international lenders over the release of the next bailout tranche to Athens.

“Greece is fully safeguarded. Cyprus will not go bankrupt,” Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras said categorically upon his exit from the Premier's office,

after briefing political leaders on developments.

“Euro group made a historic mistake. It must be corrected as soon as possible to safeguard Cyprus and the eurozone and avoid possible repercussions elsewhere,” socialist PASOK party leader Evangelos Venizelos told reporters after the meeting, as the Cypriot parliament was voting down the terms of the bailout package for Nicosia.

Xinhua

Death toll in Brazil rains climbs to 24

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 March—The death toll from torrential downpours in southeast Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state climbed to 24 on Tuesday, authorities said.

Rescue workers in the state's mountain resort of Petropolis found several more bodies on Tuesday, including those of three children, while 10 to 15 people remain unaccounted for.

Another 18 people were injured by mudslides and almost 1,500 people who were left homeless have been taken to 18 shelters around town.

The tourist town used to serve as the summer getaway of Brazil's imperial family in the 19th century, but along with other towns in the area is frequently battered by downpours that cause mudslides and flooding.

Two years ago, several of Rio's mountain towns, including Petropolis, were the site of the country's worst natural disaster ever, after several days of torrential rains led to more than 900 deaths. Some 400,000 area residents were left homeless and the towns are still recovering from the disaster.

Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, who is in Rome on an official visit to the Vatican, said earlier in the day that local authorities should prevent people from building in high-risk areas.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

**Objectives of the 68th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day 2013**

1. To uphold the national policy namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw joining hands with all national races with Union Spirit and the true patriotism in line with the Constitution
3. To crush all destructive elements at home and abroad through the strength of State, People and Tatmadaw
4. To build up a strong, competent, modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the security and sovereignty of the nation

Tatkon Township gets rural library

TATKON, 20 March—A ceremony to open Lawka Alin Library was held in Ohnbin Village of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 13 March. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotika, Staff Officer U San Lwin Oo of District Information and Public Relations Department, Head of Township IPRD Daw Tint Khaing and townselder U Maung Ko formally opened the library. The staff officer

explained the purpose of opening the library. Wellwishers donated books and shelves worth K 160,000. The library was built at a cost of K 5.943 million by the government and the people.—*Myanma Alinn*

First private football academy opened in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 20 March—With the aim of turning out new generation youth footballers to become professionals, the first private football academy was opened at Chanmyathazi football ground in Mandalay on 5 March.

The football academy admits the youths between 16 and 20 years old course and between 10 and 15 years old course, totalling 52.

The trainees are under supervision of Chairman

of Upper Myanmar former selected footballers association U Zaw Win and former selected player U Khin Maung Lwin Lay. With the assistance of the Brazilian technical officer, trainers from Super Star Professional Football Training Centre former selected players U Khin Maung Lay, U Pauk Si, U Han Tun, U Zaw Zaw Myo and U Soe Myat Min are providing training to the youths. Thanks to brilliant

training of the coaches, one of trainees was chosen as a tentatively selected player for U-16 team and one outstanding football squad emerged.

The academy plans to polish the excellent skills of trainees. Those wishing to attend the course may dial 09-428194129 and 09-01046361 of Mandalay and 09-4027004015 of Yangon. *Myanma Alinn*

Books, publications donated

KAWLIN, 20 March—As a gesture of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Kawlin Township Writers Association organized the books and publication donation ceremony at its office on 13 March.

Central Executive Committee member of Myanmar Writers Association U Khin Maung Nyein (Myangonhsaung) made a speech. Chairman of the Township Association

Daw Myint Myint (Myint Myint Htwe-Kawlin) explained the purpose of donation.

Next, Khin Moh Moh Sarpay of Kawlin, Kyeisin Sarpay and U Aung Sein (Noodle) of Myoma Ward in Kawlin donated 150 copies of books, 50 copies of journals and 200 copies of newspapers to Secretary of Township Writers Association U Pyi Sone Nyein (Shwe Lin Pyae Son). *Myanma Alinn*

Draught cattle and milch cow contest in Mandalay 22-24 March

MANDALAY, 20 March—Deputy Director-General Dr Aung Gyi of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries met officials and entrepreneurs of Mandalay Region Milch Cow Breeding and Dairy Product Supervisory Committee at the office of Mandalay Region LBVD on 7 March.

The deputy director-general stressed the need to extend breeding of milch cows. He pledged that the ministry would disburse loans to breeders who must seek endorsement of the respective LBVDs.

The deputy director-general said that the ministry imported 1000 milch cows worth K 1.5 to K 2 million each from Australia. As regions and states had enlisted to buy 700 of 1000 milch cows, entrepreneurs

Myanmar traditional chess event 24-29 March

YANGON, 20 March—Jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, the Myanmar Traditional Chess women's singles tournament will be held at

the hall of the federation in Aung San Stadium, here, from 24 to 29 March. Those wishing to take part in the tournament may register at the office of the federation, not later than 23 March.

Myanmar traditional

chess event will be included in the XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013.

The outstanding players from the tournament will be chosen for the tentatively selected players.

Myanma Alinn

Renovated documentary photo showroom opened

YANGON, 20 March—The opening ceremony of renovated Shwedagon Pagoda documentary photo showroom was opened at the northwest corner of the platform of the pagoda.

An official of Fuji Film Co explained opening of the showroom. Member of the pagoda board of trustees Dr Tin Thein Lwin spoke words of thanks.

Next, wellwishers and officials formally opened the showroom and visited there.



Fuji Film donated a photo developer machine to the pagoda.

Over 300 documentary photos depicting works of

successive eras are put on display at the showroom that is kept open from 7 am to 7 pm daily.

Myanma Alinn

Car turnover hurts 10 passengers

TAUNGDWINGYI, 20 March—A Faw car driven by Myo Thant Zaw, 25 of Chayhsay-aing Village leaving Kyangyar Village for Taungdwingyi, carrying bags of brown slab sugar, caused turnover near mile post 61/7 on Nay Pyi Taw-Chaungnet-Taungdwingyi Road in the area of Hsatthwa police station in Taungdwingyi at 8.30 am

on 13 March after dodging the motorcycle from the opposite way.

A total of 10 passengers from the Faw car were injured in the incident.

SIP Aye Min Tun rushed the injured to Taungdwingyi People's Hospital. Investigation of the car accident are being conducted.

Myanma Alinn

Culture course wraps up in Singaing

SINGAING, 20 March—The second culture course for new generation children was conducted by Pylon Chantha Association of Myoma Ward in Singaing of Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region at 12 noon on 10 March.

Region Hluttaw Representative U Nyi Nyi gave a speech.

Head of District Religious Affairs Department U Aung Khaing Win, Head of Singaing Township Religious Affairs Department U Phone Myint Wai and the chairman of Pylon Chantha Association presented first, second and third prizes to the outstanding trainees.

The culture course was conducted to the children for 10 days. In addition, they were served with meals daily.

Myanma Alinn



from Mandalay may enroll to buy the remaining 300 milch cows, he said.

The draught cattle and milch cow show and contest will be held at Natyagan fisheries camp in Amarapura of Mandalay from 22 to 24 March. Participants from townships in Mandalay Region and those of Kachin State will take part in the contest.

Winners will secure K 300,000 for the first prize, K 200,000 for the second and K 100,000 for the third prize and K 50,000 each for

consolation prizes in the contest.

Myanma Alinn

About 33000 rubber plants destroyed in fire

MAWLAMYINE, 20 March—A rubber farm comprising 33000 plants was blazed at the entrance to Mawlamyine firewood plantation, seven miles southwest of Kyaikmaraw Township at 10.30 am on 9 March.

The fire started from negligent act of cheroot fire

of U Tayoke, son of U Khin Zaw Htoo from Mudon.

A total of 33000 rubber plants on 100 acres of land were destroyed in the fire, losing K 330 million. A total of 73 workers of rubber farms and owners collectively participated in the fight against.

Myanma Alinn

Tabaung, the month of Sand Pagoda Festival

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 21 March, 2013

Racism and Sport

Today, many people have excessively idolized sport. For them sport is more than entertainment. The love for sports events has been extensively grown. It also serves as a social tool to communicate with new people. Thanks to cable TV networks, it now has wider audience and louder voice.

Sport has become a focal point for the global community and also is seen as a catalyst for peace, reconciliation and development.

Nelson Mandela who led South Africa in 1990s employed rugby as a weapon to combat apartheid. Madiba's "One team, One country" campaign united the apartheid-prone African nation, securing 1995 World Cup victory on the home soil. He could inspire the entire people, both black and white, to celebrate one victory.

The Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has set this year's theme for International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which falls on 21 March as "Racism and Sport".

In these years, sport had some bad days with racism despite committed measures against it. Football grounds become significant sources of racist offences.

We need to be well aware that sport can both eliminate and disseminate racism. We need more awareness-raising measures at sport events in smarter style to root out the evil legacy of this planet.

Our country will host SEA Games, the most famous regional sports event, in coming December. We should try to make the most of it by seekings means to shape the soughtafter national reconciliation of our country which is a home to colourful races.

Being born black or white or to any particular race is not our own choice. Then, what's the use of arguing about this.

Books, publications donated to village library



MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 20 March—The books and publications donation ceremony was held at Pyinnyaywa Library of Duntabet Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 15 March.

Manager U Wai Phyio Than of Myanma Alin daily (Yangon) and staff donated 100 copies of books and publications, U He Min Wai (News Lovers Group) of Yangon Media Group 100 books and publications

and wellwishers from Mawlamyinegyun Township 54 books.

Member of Leading Committee of Myanmar Journalists Association U Myint Aung (Mawgyun Myint Aung) handed over the books to village administrator U Khin Maung Maw and librarian U Win Bo.

The village library has stored over 3000 books and publications for public reading.

Myanma Alinn

The 12th month of Myanmar lunar calendar, which is the last month is Tabaung roughly corresponding to March. Astrologically called "Mina" [Pices] with its zodiacal sign of two Fish, Tabaung is a transition between Myanmar cold season [Heyman] and warm or hot season [Geinman]. The first half of Tabaung, 1st to 15th is still Winter and the second half, 16th to the 30th enter into Summer. Tabaung's daytimes are warm and hot but nights remain cold. There is an old Myanmar saying "နေ့ပူလို့ ညချမ်း တပေါင်းလ၊ လ သရမ်း" [Days are warm an nights are chilly, Tabaung is the month so unruly]. Outara phala guni [the asterism of two stars in Leo, resembling the rear leg of a couch shines with the moon. As Tabaung is the beginning of Myanmar spring time all trees and plants bloom. But special flowers "Tharaphi" [Orchocapus Siamensis] and Pon Nyet [Callophyllum Inophyllum] are traditionally designated as the flowers of this month.

Old Myanmar Book on Vocabularies [Wawhaya Linatha Dipani Kyan] says that there are two meanings in the word "Tabaung". Firstly it means it is the month for yearning or longing or reminiscence. Because the month is pleasant and the natural environment in this month is so picturesquely beautiful that one recalls one's sweet memories or one longs or yearns for one's loved ones, nears and dears, fond and sweet memories return. Second meaning says that in Tabaung, palm toddy juice is boiled down [paung] to become jaggery [palm sugar].

The month Tabaung is the favourite month for describing the unsurpassing beauties of nature because it is in Tabaung that natural scapes burst forth all its glories and splendours—sky and clouds change their designs and colours, woodlands put on all hues, foliage bears a variety of green. The withering leaves fall and being flown adrift in the wind's currents. Dried leaves of copper and gold colour are carried away by brooks. Lakes and ponds assume emerald green or

sapphire blue. Cuckoos' melodies herald summer. Non-stopped cooings of doves signal their mating games. In anticipation of upcoming monsoon, sparrows and other winged creatures repair or renovate their nests, Swarms of wasps, bees and butterflies buzz around wild blooms and flutters away with the nectars they have gathered early.

As the Sun declines, appear behind the veil of huze are dark blue mountains. The smell of farm fire burning somewhere is wafted by the evening breeze. At dusk sweet fragrance of seasonal flora is wafted by light cool breeze. As the waxing Tabaung moon gradually climbs above the tree tops, nature's nocturnal life unfolds. Cacophony of cicada insects creates an eerie atmosphere. Their incessant sounds of accompany perfectly the dainty movements of ripples in the lakes. The entire night life of Tabaung is caressed by silvery moon beams. That is poetic Tabaung.

It is about poetic Tabaung that Saint Ashin Kaludayi composed his famous epic poem in 64 Pali stanzas [gathas] to request Lord Gotama Buddha to make a long on foot journey through the glades of Himalayan mountains to his father's kingdom Kapilavatthu. Tabaung is the favourite theme of Myanmar nature writers. Myanmar poets of the past and present never tire in praising the beauties of Tabaung Monk poets of Inwa Period vied each other in their descriptions of Tabaung Beauty.

In Twelve Season poems which flowed from the prolific pen of Pho Thudaw U Min of late Konbaung Period, the stanza on Tabaung's glory runs as follows:-

"ပန်းရွှေမီကြိုင်လျောက်လို့၊ ပိတောက်ကယ်တဲ့သင်းချို ဥတ္တရာဘုရင်က၊ တိမ်ဘုံမှာရောင်ခြည်လင်းလို့၊ လမ်းသော်တာနှင့်၊ တူမကွာ ထိန်ဝါလဲ့၊ ထွန်းတဲ့ခါကို။ သောင်သင်ယို ရေညိုကရစ်ဖို့၊ လေညှင်းငယ်လာ၊ စုံဖောမာမြိုင်ထဲက ဝမ်းဘဲရွှေစင်ရော်တို့၊ ဖော်ခေါ်သံမောင်မယ်ကျူးတယ်၊ မြူးပျော်ကြလို့။"

"This is the time when climbing high,

Orion glitters in the sky. And shinning with the moon at night

Mingles with her's his yellow light.

The sweet scent of the Tharaphee

And faint smell of the Padauk tree

Is wafted from the misty trees.

Upon a gentle southing breeze

About the sand banks of the stream

The white arms of a river gleam

I hear the clamorous return

Of wild duck and silver

Maha Suddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

Tern.

Tabaung's traditional festival is Sand Pagoda Festival. Earliest historical evidence of this Festival is found in the literature of Inwa Period. Shin Maha Thilawuntha, one of four noted monk poets of that period composed many Pyos [Pyo is poem of epic proportions] of which "Buddhu Pati" Pyo has the description of the month Tabaung and Sand Pagoda festival. The following is the relevant stanza, freely rendered into English.

"Catfish, carps and all their members

Frolic in the river.

Seagull and Sheldrake make lovely call

Aquatic birds brahminy duck, hamsa and river

tern, Gleeefully greet each other in ecstasy.

On the silvery sandbank is celebrated the Festival of Sand Pagoda."

From this poem we may safely assume that Sand Pagoda festival was annually held in Tabaung in Inwa Period. But as all pagoda festivals are associated with Buddhism and since Buddhism was well established in Myanmar long before Inwa Period, we can say with confidence that Sand Pagoda festival originated long before Inwa Period. History of Shwezigon Pagoda in old Bagan, built by King Anawrahta and completed by King Kyanzittha says that it was originally called Shwe the gone meaning Sand Pagoda built on the sand bank of the Ayeyawaddy River.

We may trace the origin of Sand Pagoda festival

in Buddhist literature and history. Buddha Sasanika Kyans [Treatises on Buddha Sasana] say that the building and worshipping of Sand Pagoda were cultural traditions of Buddhism, dating far back to aeons of time. History of the first building of Sand Pagoda is mentioned in Apadan Pali, Palinupadaka Mahathera Apadan as follows:-

"In the time of hundred thousand kabas [cosmic Aeon] ago there lived a hermit named Devalanian hermitage in the Himalayas. Devas created his hermitage. He had many pupils and

disciples. One day he came out from his hermitage and made a sand pagoda on a sand bank.

He decorated it with flowers and worshipped it as representation of Lord Buddha. He received peace of mind and spiritual bliss. When his pupils and disciples asked him why he did that, the Hermit replied that ancient literatures of Vedas say that Lord Buddha was attended by many pupils and disciples and Buddha was the Exalted Sage to respect and revere. So he built Sand Pagoda to worship it as representation of Lord Buddha.

The Hermit further described and explained peculiar character, and Sila [morals] of Lord Buddha. On hearing the Hermit's explanations they all followed the Hermit, building them ours Sand Pagodas and worshipping them.

Hagiography of Pulinahtupiya Mahathera mentioned that Hermit Narda made Sand Pagoda to worship all previously revealed Buddhas who had entered Parinivirna. He decorated the Sand Pagoda he made with three thousand small bells and worshipped it day and night.

In Tabaung, all water bodies reduce and sand banks or sand bars appear on which Myanmar farmers grow crops other than paddy, vegetables and flowers. After their agricultural products are sold they have cash and leisure time. They turn to religious works and

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Coord meeting on development of international airport held

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—A coordination meeting on running Nay Pyi Taw international airport was held at the Ministry of Transport, here, yesterday with an opening speech by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung.

At the meeting, those present held discussion on

the operation of Nay Pyi Taw Airport which will start handling international flights for the first time in April. They also discussed on arrival visa, tourist visa and other airport functions plus airport transfer and sight-seeing services to be provided to travelers during promotion period.

The meeting was

attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and officials.—MNA

Myanmar hosts McKinsey Mekong Business Challenge for first time

YANGON, 20 March—Myanmar hosted for the first time the Mekong Business Challenge 2013, the annual event used to be held in Phnom Penh of Cambodia, at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here yesterday after the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) was granted to co-host the competition.

The challenge was mainly sponsored by McKinsey & Co with Google, Standard Chartered Bank, Krisenergy, PWC, IWC, Fusion Partners, Emergent, Victoria Park Foundation acted as co-sponsors and partners.

A total of ten teams from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam took part in the competition in which Moringa Tea team

from Lao American College of Laos won the first prize. Two Myanmar teams—Magic Bag and My Slipper—won a special prize to visit Google in Singapore.

Ahead of the challenge, Business Networking Reception was held at the same venue on 15 March, attended by local and foreign businessmen.

MNA

China provides sports equipment



Sports gear donation ceremony in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—A ceremony to provide sports equipment for the Ministry of Sports was held at the ministry, here this morning.

Myanmar which will host XXVII SEA Games in 2013 was provided with

sports equipment under the agreement between Myanmar and China. U Thaung Htaik, Deputy Minister for Sports and Physical Education Department Director-General U Myo Hlaing and Group Leader Mr Fang Pingjun of

China Sports International Co., Ltd (CSIC) exchanged notes. The Chinese group leader presented related documents to the Director-General of SPED. The first batch of sports equipment donation is worth US\$ 652,281.—MNA

Live broadcast of XXVII SEA Games discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—The Myanmar Radio and Television held its first coordination meeting on live broadcast of the 27th SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in 2013, at Sky Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, here, this morning.

It was attended by Director-General of MRTV U Tint Swe, broadcasters

from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, and those from local media fields.

The director-general extended greetings at the meeting. Next, those present reported their respective matters to the director-general and took part in discussions on live broadcast of XXVII SEA Games.—MNA

Myanmar to cooperate with Danish Refugee Council

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Ohn Khin received Mrs Ann Mary Olsen of Danish Refugee Council at her office this morning.

The two discussed cooperation in provision of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons suffering from recent conflicts in Kachin and Rakhine states including sheltering victims at refugee camps,

transportation of relief aids and rehabilitation works as well as cooperation in rescue, rehabilitation, reconstruction and humanitarian works for disasters and conflicts under the MoU.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairman receives South Korean guests



Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo receives Mr JEON HAE CHEOL of Legislation and Judiciary Committee of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and party.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo received a delegation led by Mr JEON HAE CHEOL of Legislation and Judiciary Committee of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea at the

meeting hall No.4 of Hluttaw Building, here, yesterday morning.

They frankly discussed matters related to legal affairs and judiciary cooperation between Myanmar and ROK.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Bill Committee U T Khun Myat,

Secretary of Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe, Secretary of International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Dr Taik San and officials of the Hluttaw office.

MNA

Danthai Boonma leading Tiger Championship continues second round

YANGON, 20 March—Thailand's Danthai Boonma led Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship-2013 Day 2 with 141 strokes after second round while defending champion Myanmar's Thein Naing

Soe settled at seventh place.

Myo Win Aung of Myanmar, and Somprat Rattanasuwan and Tawan Phongphun of Thailand kept the leader under pressure with 144 strokes each, sharing the second place.

The event was sponsored by Srixon, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, 100 Plus (Isotonic Drink), Yangon Golf Club and Elite Express. The game continues tomorrow.

NLM

Tabaung, the month of Sand Pagoda...

(from page 8)

pastimes. Myanmar kings made Sand Pagoda festival as Tabaung's festival and either on Sand banks or at the Palace this festival was annually held, followed by public amusements and entertainments. Sand pagodas are of graduated five tiers, tapering to the top. Each tier of white sand is flanked by bamboo

mattings and posts. The five tiers represent five layers of Mt Meru, the Legendary Mountain in Buddhist cosmography. After five layers are filled with white sand, paper streamers and flowers are artistically decorated on them. Villagers in their finery came in procession, with all offertories, followed by folk musicians and dancers.

They circumambulate the Sand Pagoda clockwise three times. Invited monks perform consecration rite to Sand Pagoda. After formal prayers and libation ceremony, monks leave, and all laymen turn to merriments.

Sand pagodas last till the next monsoon. But some sand pagodas were encased by brick and cement to last long. In some water front towns we may find sand pagodas of permanent type. Another

explanation for the worship of Sand Pagoda is that as countless as grains of sand in the Sacred River Ganges, Buddhas had revealed and similar countless Buddhas are up-coming Sand Pagoda represents countless revealed Buddhas and up-coming Buddhas in future.

Now-a-days Sand Pagoda festival is no longer held on national level. Only few towns and villages along rivers hold it annually as their local event.

Kenya's PM seeks forensic audit of IT system for electoral body

NAIROBI, 20 March—Kenya's Prime Minister Raila Odinga on Tuesday moved to court under fresh application seeking to compel the electoral body to allow forensic audit of its Information and Technology (IT) systems before the formal hearing of his petition.

Odinga through his lawyer, George Oraro said the Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission (IEBC) which oversaw the 4 March general elections has given conflicting reasons for failure of the Electronic Voter Identification (EVID), Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), Results Transmission System (RTS) and Results Presentation System (RPS) and other electronic systems

and thus the urgent need for parties to place empirical forensic evidence to assist the Supreme Court in making a decision.

"Prior to the elections, the IEBC assured all stakeholders that the system will be transparent, free from manipulation and that not only would there be no unauthorized persons voting but that the transmission of results would be simple, fair and insulated from manipulation by any person," Oraro said in the application.

He said the crucial information Odinga is seeking from their agents, service providers and contractors will facilitate a forensic audit of the IEBC IT systems prior to the hearing of the presidential petition

which was filed last Saturday.

Odinga is also seeking to be given all simcards used in each of the hand held devices used for electronic voter identification, each of the laptops or PCs, each of the GSM/GPRS/Edge/Satellite mobile telephone handsets used for results transmission system at each of the 33,4400 polling stations in the just concluded elections.

Xinhua

US Senate bill drops assault weapons ban

WASHINGTON, 20 March — US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said on Tuesday he would not include a renewal of the federal assault weapons ban in a package of gun reform legislation to be introduced in the Senate, which signals the measure still lacks enough support in Con-

gress.

Reid told reporters that the proposed renewal of the assault weapons ban, sponsored by Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein, could not win even 40 votes in the Democrats-controlled Senate. "I have to get something on the floor so we can have votes on that issue and

the other issues we talked about," said Reid, adding that he would offer Feinstein's proposal separately as an amendment. Feinstein's proposal will revive a decade-long ban on the sale of more than 150 types of military-style semi-automatic weapons, which expired in 2004.—Xinhua

UN chief slams series of deadly bombing attacks in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 20 March— UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday strongly condemned series of deadly car bombing attacks in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and voiced his full support for the efforts of his special representative to work under "exceptionally difficult circumstances."

The secretary-general made the statement when he was meeting with his special representative for Iraq, Martin Kobler, at the UN Headquarters in New York City, said Ban's spokesman Martin Nesirky in a note to the Press here.

"The secretary-general condemned in the strongest terms the bomb attacks today in Baghdad, and expressed his deepest con-

lences to the families of the victims," Nesirky said.

Earlier, Kobler, who also heads the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), condemned the waves of deadly bombing attacks in the Iraqi capital.

At least 17 people were killed and 64 others injured in a series of car bombs in Baghdad, according to reports.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks remain common in Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease in violence since its peak in 2006 and 2007, when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings after the US-led Iraqi war.

During the meeting, Kobler briefed Ban about the Iraqi government's decision to postpone elections

in some provinces of Iraq.

The Iraqi cabinet on Tuesday decided to postpone the country's provincial elections for a maximum period of six months due to deteriorated security across the nation, reports said.

Kobler also briefed the secretary-general on the latest situation with regard to the former residents of Camp Ashraf, a former US military base near Baghdad which accommodates Iranian exiles.

"The secretary-general expects and hopes that the residents of Camp Hurriya would respond positively to the generous offer by the government of Albania to accept over 200 of them, and to cooperate with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to relocate in the coming weeks," Nesirky

Blast hits near Turkish Justice Ministry

ANKARA, 20 March —A blast occurred near the building of Turkish Justice Ministry in the capital of Ankara on Tuesday, injuring several people, local media reported.

The explosion took place in front of the additional building of the ministry, seriously injuring two people, the report said.

The police and ambulances rushed to the site, and sealed off the area to conduct an investigation.

So far, there have been no official comments about the incident.

Earlier Tuesday, another explosion occurred at the headquarters of Turkish Telecommunications Workers' Union in Ankara, injuring four people.

Xinhua



Japanese felt painter Kimie Yagi poses for photos in Nagoya, central Japan, in February 2013. Yagi has achieved international fame by creating pictures using woolen yarn—so-called "felt paintings."—KYODO NEWS

Algeria to adopt supplementary budget law for 2013

ALGIERS, 20 March—The Algerian government will adopt a supplementary budget law for 2013, said Algerian Finance Minister Karim Djoudi on Tuesday.

The law will comprise the budgetary costs of the cultural event dubbed "Constantine: The Capital of the Arab Culture" due in 2015 and other public expenditures, including the support programmes of employment and investment in the southern regions, the minister told the National Radio, without specifying when this law will be submitted to the parliament for adoption.

The supplementary budget law has become a "tradition" in Algeria's fiscal policy in recent years. The finance minister, how-

ever, said that such a law does not highlight government's "lack of foresight," but rather, the fact that "the government is forced sometimes to adopt a supplementary budget law to take in charge new emergency projects."

The North African nation has recently planned to undertake some new development projects to meet the claims of inhabitants in desert areas to boost employment and improve the living conditions there.

The initial Budget Law for 2013 predicts a 10 percent increase in revenues and 11 percent drop in expenses compared to 2012. However, it forecasts a budget deficit of around 19 percent of the GDP.

Xinhua

148 schools attacked in Bahrain since last year

MANAMA, 20 March—A total of 148 Bahraini public schools out of 206 were attacked by rioters since last year, costing the government around 3.9 million US dollars, *Bahrain News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

Most of the attacks occurred in northern and central Bahrain, among which 11 schools were attacked and vandalized on 14 February, as the opposition marked the second anni-

versary of the beginning of anti-government protests, according to the report.

Fawaz al-Shoroqi, public relations director of the Education Ministry, said his ministry has coordinated with the Interior Ministry to install surveillance cameras in schools and to train guards to deal with such attacks. He revealed that 5,200 students have received psychological help after witnessing the attacks.—Xinhua



Aerial photo shows buildings housing the Nos 1 to 4 reactor units (from L to R) at Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture on 19 March, 2013.

KYODO NEWS



Photo shows the ruins of Karnak Temple, a tourist spot in Luxor, southern Egypt, on 3 March, 2013. Local tourism has suffered a decline since a fatal hot air balloon accident in Luxor in February.—KYODO NEWS

REGIONAL



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) shakes hands with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean at the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 19 March, 2013.—XINHUA

Malaysia defers new minimum wages for foreign workers in SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 March— The Malaysian government has approved the delayed implementation by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of new minimum wage standard for their foreign workers, local media reported on Wednesday.

The National Wages Consultative Council, which is responsible for the implementation of the standard, said in a statement that the employers in SMEs are permitted to defer the implementation until 31 December.

The employers who have already embraced the new standard would be provided with blanket approval for deductions of levy and cost of accommodation.

Employers in other sectors are also allowed to apply for deferment from the council.

The new minimum wage standard, which came into effect this year, requires employers in the Malay peninsula to pay a minimum wage of 900 ringgit (288 US dollar) to their workers.

Many foreign workers have staged strikes recently to protest against the “double standard” by their employers who only apply the minimum wages to local workers.

More than 100 Nepali workers were briefly detained on Sunday for illegally planning a protest in the southern industrial town of Muar.

Xinhua

Singapore sees customer satisfaction record new high in 2012

SINGAPORE, 20 March— Customer Satisfaction Index of Singapore, an index measured annually by Institute of Service Excellence at the Singapore Management University, revealed on Tuesday that people feel more satisfied with the level of service in 2012.

The index increased to 69.9 points last year, up 0.88 point, or 1.3 percent from 69.1 in 2011. The figure represents the most positive

results since its inception in 2007.

Among all the nine measured industry sectors, three sectors, including the healthcare, finance and insurance and info-communications sectors, performed best improvements on year.

On the other hand, customer satisfaction fell in five industry sectors, namely private education, tourism, public education, transport and logistics and

retail in order of severity. Among some 110 measured companies, Standard Chartered, Citibank, Marina Bay Sands, Shangri-La, Sentosa and some other companies had significantly outperformed the national average.

According to the institute, the scores are generated based on the econometric modeling of survey data collected from end-users after the consumption of products and services.—Xinhua

Japan to ease Okinawa's burden for hosting US bases

TOKYO, 20 March— Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Tuesday that his government will seek to relieve the burden of Okinawa Prefecture for hosting the bulk of US bases in Japan, local media reported.

Speaking at the first council meeting on Okinawa affairs, Abe said the government will make “all-out” efforts to ease the southernmost prefecture's burdens, while maintaining a US military deterrence in the region by station in the prefecture, according to Japan's *Kyodo News Agency*.

Abe also vowed to promote local development,

saying the prefecture has potentials that could become a “driving force in revitalizing the Japanese economy,” *Kyodo* cited Abe as saying.

Relations between Okinawa prefectural government and Japan's central government chilled due to the relocation issue of the US Futenma Air Base.

Despite strong opposition from local residents and government, Japan and the United States agreed during Abe's meeting with US President Barack Obama last month that to proceed with the plan that to move the air base within the prefecture.—Xinhua

British woman escapes rape bid by jumping from window in India

NEW DELHI, 20 March — A British woman on Tuesday sustained serious injuries after she jumped out of a window from the second floor of a hotel in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh's tourist town of Agra to escape an alleged rape bid, a senior police official said.

“The woman is battling for her life at a local hospital where she was rushed to by some passers-by who saw her taking the plunge. We have arrested the hotel owner after the woman tourist narrated her ordeal to us,” he said, on

condition of anonymity.

Agra is just 250 km from the Indian capital and is home to the iconic monument of Taj Mahal.

The latest incident of attempted sexual assault came just days after a Swiss woman was gangraped by seven men in front of her husband while the duo were touring on cycle the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh's Datia District. Five people have so far been arrested in the case, according to police.

Barely three months back, the brutal gangrape of a 23-year-old medical

student on a moving bus by six men shocked India and sparked massive public outcry, compelling the government to consider stricter laws against sexual assaults on women.

The victim later died of her injuries at a Singapore hospital and four of the accused are on trial facing rape and murder charges which carry a maximum of death penalty. The main accused committed suicide inside his cell at a high-profile jail in the Indian capital while the sixth accused is being tried as a minor.—Xinhua



Policemen display seized weapons to media at a police station in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 19 March, 2013. Police arrested two suspects who tried to smuggle weapons and ammunitions from Peshawar to Punjab Province, local media reported.—XINHUA

Parliamentary, state elections in Malaysia to be held simultaneously

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 March — The upcoming parliamentary and state assembly elections in Malaysia will be held simultaneously, a senior electoral official said on Tuesday, despite different opinion of several state governments held by the opposition.

The Election Commission made the final decision after considering related issues like cost, said its deputy chairman.

“The Election Commission will hold state and parliament election simulta-

neously, as holding separate elections will involve a huge amount of money and a waste of the people's time,” he was quoted as saying by the state news agency, *Bernama*.

If the state and parliament elections are progressing separately, it would involve a much higher travelling cost and a cumbersome election process.

Several states governed by the opposition had expressed desire not to hold their state election together with the parliamentary elec-

tion during the upcoming general election, *Bernama* reported.

Constitutionally, the Election Commission is responsible for the arrangement of elections, including setting the polling date.

The parliamentary election and the state elections of 12 of Malaysia's 13 states were held simultaneously in the last general election in 2008, during which the ruling coalition lost its two-third majority in parliament and the control of five state governments.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka's national airline cuts flights to south India

COLOMBO, 20 March— Sri Lanka's national airline announced on Tuesday that it was halving the number of flights to south India following a number of incidents in that part of the country.

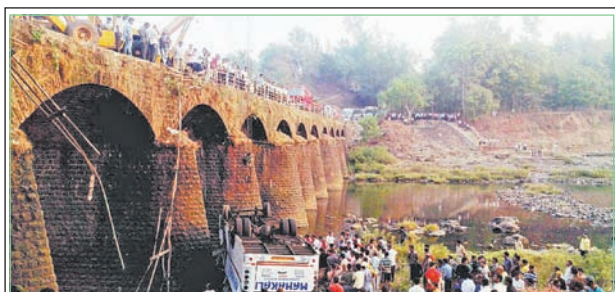
SriLankan Airlines said it has observed a drop in traffic between Chennai and Colombo due to recent developments in Tamil Nadu, hence it was decided to reduce its frequency of flights to Chennai from 28 to 14 per week from Thursday.

“Revised schedule involves two daily flights, departing Colombo in the morning and evening, to facilitate the passengers who board their flights to the Middle East and far eastern destinations from Chennai. Flights to other Indian destinations will be operated uninterrupted. SriLankan Airlines is closely observing the situation and will take further action if necessary,” the airline said.

The announcement came after the Sri Lankan

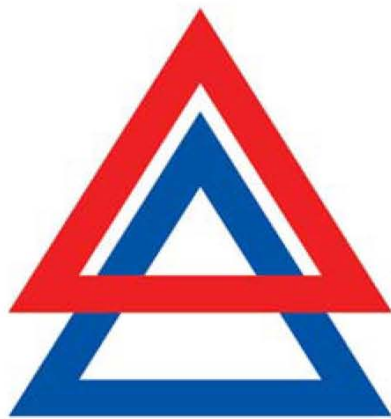
External Affairs Ministry urged Sri Lankans travelling to Tamil Nadu to be cautious as a result of recent incidents targeting Sri Lankans in the area. “In the event such visits were to take place to Tamil Nadu due to compelling reasons, Sri Lankan nationals are requested to keep the Sri Lanka's Deputy High Commission in Chennai informed well in advance,” the Sri Lankan External Affairs Ministry said.

Xinhua



Rescuers and locals gather at the site of a bus accident at Ratnagiri District in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, on 19 March, 2013. At least 37 people died and 17 were injured when a bus fell into a river in India's Maharashtra state on Tuesday morning.

XINHUA



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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FALSHOEFT VOY NO (706)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FALSHOEFT VOY NO (706) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OXL FLAMAR**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEIYO SAPPHIRE VOY NO (4)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEIYO SAPPHIRE VOY NO (4) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EASTERN CAR LINER
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George Clooney has been dating former wrestler Stacy Keibler since the last two years. PTI

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George Clooney happier than ever with Stacy Keibler

LOS ANGELES, 20 March—Hollywood star George Clooney is happier than ever with former wrestler Stacy Keibler, according to friends.

Although the couple, who have been dating for almost two years, have been the subject of split reports recently, friends insist they are more together than ever because Stacey Keibler knows exactly how to handle him, reported National Enquirer.

"At first I wouldn't have given them two months. While Stacy is certainly gorgeous, she's this D-List celebrity on the arm of one of the most power-

ful men in Hollywood. But George only seems more drawn to her as time goes by," a close friend said.

Friends also said that George Clooney, 51, is impressed by the 31-year-old former wrestler's independence as many of his former girlfriends were too clingy.

"She goes off and does her own thing whenever George is spending time with his pals or is deep into a film project— she doesn't even call him. But eventually, he starts missing her and he's the one who calls. She lets George come to her. This is the most comfortable I've ever seen George in a relationship.—PTI

Drive Safely

Sandra Bullock and Jesse James separated in 2010, after it was revealed that Jesse cheated on Sandra. PTI



Sandra Bullock invited to ex-husband's wedding

LOS ANGELES, 20 March —Sandra Bullock's ex-husband Jesse James has reportedly invited the actress to his upcoming wedding with race car driver Alexis DeJoria.

Although Bullock split from James in 2010 after it was revealed the Monster Garage host had cheated on the 48-year-old actress, he wants her to be among the guests at his forthcoming nuptials.

But his invitation is unlikely to be accepted, re-

ported *In Touch* magazine.

"It seems Jesse has colossal gall to match his colossal ego. After all of the hurt and humiliation he's caused her, Sandra is the last person on earth who would attend his wedding.

"Since their split he's always trying to reach out but Sandra wants nothing to do with him," said a source. James and DeJoria are reportedly planning to marry at the end of this month in Malibu.

PTI

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie's wedding plans may include matching tattoos

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, who are soon to get married, will have matching wedding vow tattoos.

PARIS, 20 March—Celebrity couple Brad Pitt and fiancée Angelina Jolie are reportedly planning to have similar tattoos as part of their soon-to-happen wedding.

The couple, who raises six children — Maddox, 11, Pax, nine, Zahara, eight, Shiloh, six, and Knox and Vivienne, four — will ink the name of their children and wedding date, reports contactmusic.com.

"They plan to have their tattoos done by a local French artist. They've

designed a special motif that includes some of their vows and their children's names entwined in leaves, which will be in their own handwriting," a source said.

The marriage is expected to take place here before May, as Pitt will soon get a marriage license.—PTI



Murray can be world No1 this year, says Del Potro

LONDON, 20 March—Indian Wells runner-up Juan Martin del Potro believes Britain's Andy Murray can become world tennis number one this year.

The towering Argentine beat Murray in the quarter-finals last week on the California hard courts and is looking forward to locking horns with him on grass after confirming he will play at the Aegon Championships at London's Queen's Club two weeks before Wimbledon.

"Murray is a big champion, he already won a grand slam, he made the finals in Australia and he has everything he needs to be at the top in the future," Del Potro said in a statement.

"He will be fighting for the world number-one place this year and he can take a big opportunity in the grass season."

This year's Queen's Club field promises to be strong, with Wimbledon runner-up Murray joined by former US Open champion del Potro and Tomas Berdych at the event starting on 10 June.

Del Potro, who has taken a while to get used to playing on the low-bouncing grasscourts, was a bronze medallist at the Olympics staged at Wimbledon last year, and believes he could challenge for the Wimbledon title.

"I have a fantastic memory from last year when I won the bronze medal at the Olympics," he said. "It was a magnificent experience for me. I had never played at an Olympics before so it was a big moment for me and my country. To win on grass at Wimbledon as well made it an even bigger moment.—Reuters

Britain's Andy Murray.



Burger advert poking fun at Torres not to council's taste

LONDON, 20 March—The blushes of Chelsea's misfiring striker Fernando Torres have been spared after a local council ordered the removal of an advertising hoarding that mocked his performances for the European champions.

The advert for bookmakers Paddy Power was erected on a building next to Stamford Bridge but Spanish international Torres, signed from Liverpool for a 50 million pounds (\$75.58 million) fee in January 2011, has had the last laugh.

The sign's slogan 'Fernando—we've got an onion bag you can actually find. It's in the burger van mate. Get your hair net on' was emblazoned next to a picture of a burger being flipped.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council were made aware of the illegal hoarding and ordered its removal.

"Poking fun at beleaguered Premier League footballers is not necessarily a problem as long as the advertising hoardings are legal," the council's deputy leader Greg Smith said in a news release.

"Residents don't expect hoardings to pop up everywhere willy-nilly."

Torres has been unable to recapture

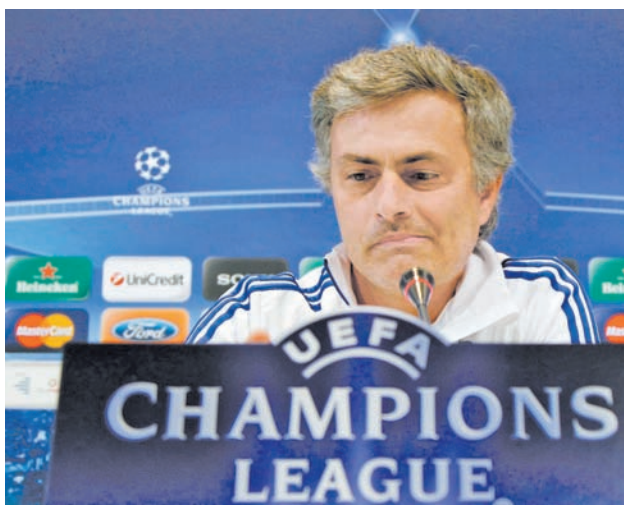


Chelsea's soccer player Fernando Torres.

the scintillating form he showed at Liverpool during his time with Chelsea and has been left out of Spain's squad for the World Cup qualifiers against Finland on Friday and France four days later.

Reuters

Mourinho suspects problems with FIFA coach vote



Real Madrid's coach Jose Mourinho

LISBON, 20 March—Real Madrid's Jose Mourinho did not attend the FIFA Ballon d'Or gala because he was warned by some of those who voted for him as coach of the year that their votes showed up as supporting other candidates instead.

"Am I sorry for not having gone to the gala? No. It was the right decision," Mourinho told RTP television on Tuesday in excerpts from an interview.

"One, two or three people called me saying they had voted for me but the vote showed up as cast for somebody else. So, I decided not to go," he said.

The Portuguese coach and former Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola lost the 2012 FIFA coach award to Spain's Vicente del Bosque at January's gala.

FIFA said in a statement: "FIFA confirms that the list of votes published on FIFA.com is accurate."

Reuters

Katidis banned for rest of Greek season for Nazi salute

ATHENS, 20 March—AEK Athens have suspended Giorgos Katidis for the rest of the season after the 20-year-old midfielder made a Nazi salute to fans during a game at the weekend.

The former captain of his country's under-19 side had already been banned from all international teams for life by the Greek Football Federation (EPO) for making the gesture after scoring the winning goal in a 2-1 Super League victory over Veria on Saturday.

"AEK have decided to leave the player out of the squad until the end of the 2012-13 season ... thus im-



AEK Athens' Giorgos Katidis (C) celebrates a goal during a Super League soccer match against Veria at the Olympic stadium in Athens on 16 March, 2013.

REUTERS

posing the worst possible punishment (we can)," the club said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Whether the player will remain at the club be-

yond this season will be judged in the summer after which time he will firstly have been given the opportunity to demonstrate in practice his behaviour was

the result of immaturity and secondly whether or not his possible reinstatement to the squad does not cause any negative effects within the club."

On Monday, Katidis asked to be dropped from AEK's first team and called his actions "totally unacceptable".

"I feel terrible for those I upset with the stupidity of my act," he said.

"I also understand fully the reasons for the decision made by the Greek Football Federation to which I owe a huge apology as it has helped me to get where I am in the professional game."

Reuters

Hulkenberg to have new chassis in Malaysia

MELBOURNE, 20 March—Nico Hulkenberg will have a new car for Sunday's Malaysian Grand Prix after a fuel system problem prevented the German from starting last weekend's season-opener in Australia.

Sauber said in a preview for the race at Sepang that the car Hulkenberg qualified with in Melbourne had been sent back

to the factory in Switzerland for a full examination and he would start with a new chassis for the second round.

Hulkenberg finished ninth in Malaysia last year with Force India and took the first points of his Formula One career at the track in 2010 when he finished 10th for Williams.

Reuters



Sauber Formula One driver Nico Hulkenberg of Germany drives during the qualifying session of the Australian F1 Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne on 17 March, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Photo taken with a cell phone on 20 March, 2013 shows tree branches covered with snow on Dongdan North Street in Beijing, capital of China. Beijing witnessed a snowfall with a depth reaching 10-17 centimetres overnight.



Pakistan to allow foreign poll observers

ISLAMABAD, 20 March —Pakistan on Tuesday told the Islamabad-based diplomats that foreign election observers will be allowed to monitor the upcoming parliamentary polls, the Foreign Ministry said.

Senior officials told the diplomats at the Foreign Ministry that the government of Pakistan would welcome foreign election observers who wish to observe the transparent conduct of elections, after completion of due formalities.

A large number of international and local observers have approached the Election Commission

to observe the elections, scheduled to take place in May.

The Commission has also issued a Code of Conduct for the observers. The Commission says that special passes will be issued to observers and that the observers will follow the rules and will not interfere in the polling process.

“The diplomats were assured that the government will take all steps within its means to facilitate the visiting foreign election observers during their stay in Pakistan,” a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The briefing was organized at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs to inform all diplomatic missions in Islamabad regarding the policy and procedure of the government of Pakistan concerning foreign election observers.

The briefing was given by the senior representatives of the Election Commission of Pakistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The foreign diplomats were also informed that the government of Pakistan was committed to facilitating free, fair and transparent elections, the statement said.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(21-3-13 09:30 am ~ 22-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * While I visited around Taunggyi
- * Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 (Part-3)
- * News
- * Cross the Roads from Zebra Crossing
- * Why a Trathc congested
- * “Great Shwddagon” Exhibition Hall of the Great Chronicle of Buddha
- * News
- * Beikthano The Ancient Glory of Myanmar
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * 66th Mon National Day
- * News
- * Cross the Roads from Zebra Crossing
- * Why a Traffic congested
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- * Photo Exhibition on the Occasion of the 65th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Russia and Mynamar
- * Myanmar Movies “Matchmaking Wreath”

Myanmar TV

(21-3-2013, Thursday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7:00 am | Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Economic) |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw | |
| 7:25 am | 4:50 pm |
| 2. Healthy Programme | 14. Teleplay (Health) |
| 7:30 am | 5:10 pm |
| 3. Morning News | 15. Science & Environment |
| 7:40 am | 5:20 pm |
| 4. International News | 16. India Drama Series |
| 7:50 am | 5:50 pm |
| 5. People Talk | 17. People Talk |
| 8:10 am | 6:00 pm |
| 6. Dance Variety | 18. Evening News |
| 8:20 am | 6:15 pm |
| 7. Road to SEA Games (Boxing) | 19. Weather Report |
| 8:45 am | 6:20 pm |
| 8. Songs of National Races | 20. Approaching Science Discovery World |
| 8:50 am | 6:50 pm |
| 9. Documentary | 21. TV Drama Series |
| 4:05 pm | 7:00 pm |
| 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit | 22. News |
| 4:10 pm | 8:10 pm |
| 11. Musical Programme | 24. News |
| 4:20 pm | 25. International News |
| 12. Cute Little Dancer | 26. Weather Report |
| 4:30 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 13. University Of Distance | 27. News |
| | 28. TV Drama Series |

Bolt to run 100 metres in Rome’s Golden Gala



Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt

NEW YORK, 20 March—Six-times Olympic champion Usain Bolt will run the 100 metres at Rome’s Golden Gala meeting on 6 June, organizers said on Tuesday.

The Jamaican world record holder has already announced appearances in the 200 at Oslo’s Bislett Games on 13 June and at the Paris Golden League meeting on 6 July ahead of the world championships in Moscow in August.

Bolt, who became the only man to win the 100-200 metres double at successive Olympics during last year’s London Olympics, is also due to compete in a 150 metres race on Brazil’s Copacabana beach on 31 March.

The Golden Gala appearance will be Bolt’s third in a row at Rome’s Olympic stadium. He set a time of 9.91 seconds in 2011 and 9.76 last year in front of more than 50,000 spectators.

Rome is the fifth round of the 14-event Diamond League calendar.

Reuters

At least 1 dead in central China residential building blast

WUHAN, 20 March—One body has been retrieved after an explosion ripped through a residential building in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on Tuesday night, the local fire department said. Over ten people have been injured in the blast, the firefighters said.

The blast that broke out

at around 10 pm in Huangpi Street in the city’s Jiangnan District has affected about 100 square metres of the area at the scene, the sources said.

Half of the 7- or 8-story building collapsed in the blast, the firefighters said.

The fire has been put out and rescue work is underway.—Xinhua



Fire fighters work at the blast locale of a residential building in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 19 March, 2013. An explosion ripped through a residential building in Wuhan Tuesday night. Casualties from the blast that broke out at around 10 pm in Hanlai Square in the city’s Hankou District are still unknown.—XINHUA

Central China tornado kills three, injures 30

CHANGSHA, 20 March —Three people have been confirmed dead and about 30 others injured by a tornado that struck central China’s Hunan Province before dawn on Wednesday.

The tornado passed through Daoxian County of Hunan’s Yongzhou City at about 3 am, causing many

casualties in the inland region, said the Yongzhou city government’s press office.

The exact number of casualties and other losses are still under further investigation.

Rescuers have rushed to the scene.

Xinhua

China to assist Cuba in adopting digital TV

HAVANA, 20 March—China will assist Cuba in trials to switch from analog to digital TV, an expert from Cuba’s Ministry of Communications said on Tuesday. The Chinese standard is the latest to be developed based on previous technologies, containing the newest advances, Director of the Telecommunications

Development and Research Institute (Lacetel) Glauco Guillen said.

Lacetel and Chinese specialists will showcase their technology Wednesday at the XV International Convention and Fair “Informatics 2013,” Guillen, also professor of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, added.

Xinhua

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss amending constitution at its seventh regular session



U Kyaw Naing Htay of Indaw Constituency raises question.
MNA



Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein replies to queries.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein clarified the message from the President seeking the parliament's approval for terminating FEC used as medium in the country's economic system at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today. The Hluttaw approved the abolishment of FEC.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sent a message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, asking to proceed with the proposal to form a parliamentary committee or

commission on assessment of the 2008 constitution. The parliament will discuss the proposal at its seventh regular session.

U Tun Kyaw of Shan State Constituency (10) said: "The constitution can't be formulated once and for all and it needs amending and rewriting to meet the demands of age as the time passes by. And its ultimate objective is to serve the interests of the national people. It is a welcoming move to assess the constitution."

Union Minister for

Finance and Revenue U Win Shein discussed the 2013 Union Budget bill in response to the debate. He believes "the financial status of the country would improve year by year" thanks to transparent cooperation between the legislature and the government and joint monitoring of international organizations including IMF. He called the increased earnings and systematic spending precondition for meeting the annual targets.

U Kyaw Naing Htay

of Indaw Constituency said "the budget is better off now". He had proposed to reduce the budget on construction of township and district education officer offices whose amount he said is equal to construction of 194 basic education schools measuring 90x30 feet. The Education Ministry has agreed with his proposal. He added he would rather have more schools to educate the children in large numbers.

The 23rd day session continues tomorrow.

MNA

Compensation of farmers continue

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—A group for scrutinizing confiscated land has given compensation to farmers within the area of Letpadaung Copper Mining Project in six village-tracts—Paungkada, Ywashae, Letpadaung, Tone, Taungpalu, Moegyopyin—from 16 to 19 March. However, rumors are rife in villages that compensation will be increased, calling for not taking the current amount of K 500,000 per acre. The confiscated farmland scrutiny group of the committee on implementation

of Letpadaung Copper Mining Project is giving compensations according to market prices of farms as described in the report of Letpadaung Copper Mining Project Investigation Commission.

The report suggests that compensations should be provided for a total area of 6784 acres after investigation commission found out that appropriate compensation were not given to those whose farms were confiscated and homes were moved on the day the announcement was issued under the 1984 Land Confiscation Act.—MNA

Overbilled electricity subscribers to file complaints at township office, says deputy minister

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Overbilled electricity users could lodge complaints at respective township electrical engineer's office, Deputy Electric Power Minister U Aung Than Oo said at the Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

He made the comment in his answer to the question of U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (6) on whether the electricity bill of kiosks could be charged at the ordinary rate. The use of electricity at these small shops is defined as the use

for economic purpose, the lawmaker said.

The use of electricity by stores, game centres, beauty parlours and copier shops will continue to be defined as commercial use, the deputy minister insisted.

He stressed the need to apply for business meters for commercial use.

"The policy laid down from on high might be correct. But staff bridging the government and people are still charging 75 Kyats per unit," commented U Steven Tha Beik of Chin State Constituency (4).

MNA



U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (6) makes question.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo replies to question.—MNA

Mandalay Mayor Thingyan pandal starts

The construction of the Mandalay mayor's Thingyan pandal in Chanayethazan Township has started as the cultural city ramps up preparation for the traditional New Year Festival.

The pandal will be in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Office held by the mayor who is also the chairman

of the committee.

Myanmar Pyi Thein Dan, Mandalay Thein Zaw, Khin Maung Htoo, Jack Mya Thaug, Bo Bo Han, Than Myat Soe, Kyi Tha (Pwe Kyaik Khin), Phyo Gyi, He Lay, Thar Soe, Nyi Nanda, D Yan, Wai Hlyan, Maykhala, Kaw Ni, May Kabya, Eaint Chit, L Sai Zi and Hmu Yadana are confirmed singers at

By Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

the pandal with possibility of more celebrities to join the team.

The pandal will also host pandal contest, decorated float contest, photo contest and other similar events as in previous years. Constructors of Thingyan pandals circling the Mandalay's legendary

moat will need to deposit K 500,000 guarantee while their counterparts setting pandals around Kandawgyi Lake and any other urban areas need not fee. The pandals with band can have 200 water throwing pipes while no-band pandals can have 80. Cigarette, beer and alcohol commercials are not allowed at the pandals. All of the pandals are required to have a water closet and dump bins. Plots for the pandals will be allotted at MCDC office through random pick on 13 March.

This year's Myanmar traditional New Year marks the ringing in of the year 1374 Myanmar Era.

Kyemon:19-3-13

Trs:HKA



Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman dies of illness in Singapore hospital

DHAKA, 20 March—Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman died Wednesday at a Singapore hospital.

Mohammad Shafiul Alam, a secretary with the presidential office, confirmed the news to Xinhua, saying "the ailing president breathed his last at 4:47 p.m. (Bangladesh time) at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore."

Rahman was flown to Singapore on March 10 night by an air ambulance and admitted to the Mount Elizabeth Hospital the following morning.

He was earlier admitted to Combined

Military Hospital in Dhaka cantonment as he complained of respiratory complications.

The 84-year-old veteran politician was installed as the ceremonial head of the state in 2009 after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh Awami League party was elected in the landmark December 2008 general elections.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Begum Khaleda Zia and Speaker Abdul Hamid expressed deep shock at the death of Rahman, the 19th president of the South Asian country.—Xinhua